

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-18, and 20-25 remain pending in this application. In light of the remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on May 24, 2004. During the interview, Applicant asserted that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of *Sekendur* with the teachings of *Brooks* as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner agreed with the Applicant. The Examiner agreed to update her search and provide, if necessary, a new, non-final Official Action. The Examiner further has withdrawn the rejections included in the final Action mailed February 18, 2004.

Based upon the agreement made during the interview on May 24, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner update her search on the patentability of the pending claims and proceed accordingly.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

⁴
DRA/CMV/jdm
3782-0186P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000